



# ALABAMA FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE (AFI)

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

Alabama Department of Human Resources

### News about Fatherhood Programs Across the State

Last quarter we highlighted **Fathers In Touch**, a sports mentoring program for fathers of college football players at Alabama State University. This month we are featuring Team Focus, another sports mentoring program, located in Mobile, Alabama.

#### TEAM FOCUS

##### **Mike and Mickey Gottfried's Mentoring Program Targeting Boys Ages 10-17 from Fatherless Homes**

*A young boy without a father figure in his home cries out for affirmation. A father affirms a child - builds character - gives him self-esteem, worth and confidence.* The vision and drive for Team Focus is based on Mike Gottfried's own life experiences.

"When I was 11 years old, my father died," explained ESPN college football analyst Mike Gottfried. "I know there are a lot of young men today with the same needs I had because my father was not available to me." Because Gottfried understands the impact not having a father can have on a young man, he felt led to make a positive contribution in this area and as a result, created Team Focus. Team Focus is a comprehensive community and outreach program in Mobile, Alabama founded by Mike and his wife, Mickey Gottfried. The program organizes and operates a series of five-day leadership camps in Alabama, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, D.C. The purpose of these camps is to provide guidance and support for boys ages 10-17 from fatherless homes while encouraging them in the areas of academics, athletics, social skills and values, and a continual relationship with a mentor.

In addition to the leadership camps, Team Focus operates a **Wisdom Center** in Mobile, Alabama. This multi-faceted educational center that is instrumental in addressing the educational and social needs of the young men. Team Focus strives to help guide potential leaders of tomorrow with a positive influence and lessons that will benefit them throughout life. *Visit the Team Focus website [www.teamfocusonline.org](http://www.teamfocusonline.org) or contact Dennis Helsel, Executive Director, 1300 Schillinger Road, Suite W-2, Mobile, AL 36695, telephone numbers (251) 635-1515, or 1-877-635-0010 for more information about Team Focus.*

### SAVE THE DATE!

NIHD  
4358 Oak Street  
Montgomery, AL 36105

**2nd Annual Alabama  
Fatherhood Conference**  
**June 8, 9, 10, 2005**  
Birmingham, Alabama

**Contact:** Leslie Tomlin  
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**Fatherhood Conference Web Site:**  
[www.alfatherhood.org](http://www.alfatherhood.org)

#### Guest Speakers:

**Bobby Bowden**, Head Football Coach  
Florida State University

**Tommy Bowden**, Head Football Coach,  
Clemson University

**Mike Gottfried**, ESPN Football Analyst

**Mike Jarvis Sr.**, ESPN Basketball Analyst

**Mike Jarvis, Jr.**, Assistant Basketball Coach  
Duke University

AND

**25 Skills Based Workshops**  
for fatherhood practitioners and faith and  
community based organizations

